

Public Safety Commission
FIRE DEPARTMENT
February 27, 2012
MINUTES
COMMUNITY ROOM, MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPT.
-----Minutes-----

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Thomas Serra called the meeting to order at **8:25 p.m.**

a) Items added to "Other Matters"

2. ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Robert Santangelo
Commissioner Phil Pessina
Commissioner Hope Kasper
Commissioner Debbie Kleckowski
Commissioner Thomas Serra

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Chief Gary Ouellette
Bill Oliver

PUBLIC PRESENT:

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Santangelo moved to approve January 23, 2012 minutes. Commissioner Pessina moved the motion. Commissioner Kleckowski seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

4. PUBLIC HEARING

None

5. CORRESPONDENCE – none

6. MONTHLY REPORT

- 342 calls for service for January
- 18 service calls to Wesleyan University
- Alarms –41 service calls to Wesleyan
- FMO- 14 service calls to Wesleyan
- Two new firefighters started at the academy and are doing fine. They have about 12 weeks remaining at the academy.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a) Computer issues at MFD – The Chief reported that hopefully they will be starting with MDT's this week. Chief feels that MFD needs an IT person. Bill Oliver stated that there are too few IT people to respond to all IT requests. IT does, however, respond to public safety issues first. Bill Oliver also spoke of a

acquiring a vehicle for IT personnel so that IT can get to and from city hall. IT personnel cannot use their own personal vehicle to commute from location to location. They would not be sufficiently insured for all the equipment he/she might be carrying on their personal vehicle insurance. IT is discussing taking over an old, unused vehicle possibly from MFD. On a separate note Bill Oliver stated that the Fire Department would be getting upgraded to Windows 10.

- b) South Fire District and CVH – Chief Ouellette stated that a reporter phoned MFD looking to do a story on South District/CVH story. An article in the Middletown Press is reporting that South Fire District is covering CVH at no additional cost to them or the residents in the south fire district. Chief is still working on getting numbers as to what it is costing MFD in overtime due to SFD covering CVH.
- c) Bridge Issues – Chief Ouellette feels that Phase II seems to be working better than Phase I. Traffic seems to be moving much better. Only issue is working out whether MFD or Portland responds to a traffic incident. Two MPD cruisers have been covering the corners of Rapallo Ave. and Grand Street which have also been helping with traffic flow.
- d) Telephone upgrades - Bill Oliver stated that the IT department is in the middle of a research process to repair or retool network connections to replace phone systems so that MFD will not be susceptible to the same outages they experienced during the storm(s). The plan is to replace the entire set of phone systems city wide with a voice over IP phone system. This would allow us to run a single network for both data and telephone activity, creating a better level of service in addition to an upgraded phone system. Many more features will become available with this new system. The number of lines and service accounts we have with AT&T will reduce significantly which is a good thing. At this time 80% of analysis is done. IT is preparing a proposal for bonding. If the Council decides to pursue this venture IT will go forward with an RFP process with a couple of targeted vendors providing bids. The state uses this same technology. Over 30 municipalities use this type of phone system. The money saved on phone lines will be used for an increased and more reliable data network. Councilman Serra wants the \$118K adopted for the Council upgrade to be looked at and possibly rolled into this bond. Chairman Santangelo added that he feels that we may be missing out on some grant money from AT&T available to the Council.
- e) Headquarters Generator - Still in hands of the Mayor's office. They are working with Honeywell with other issues too.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Truck 1- Truck 1 is here. Firefighters will begin training on it. Portland is allowing us to keep it at company II. MFD is happy with the new ladder truck.
- b) CNR – MFD has started their new, 3 year CNR. MFD will be bonding for new engine as opposed to using CNR. Bonding will be in the next 6- 12 months. Santangelo feels it is a good time to bond. CNR will remain low because new engine will be through a bond issue.

9. Monthly Summary of Action Taken by the Telecommunications Committee

Attached. Chairman Santangelo questioned Chief Ouellette's need for an IT individual. Chief Ouellette feels there is a need for an IT person for Public Safety. Bill Oliver feels that IT department should be adequately staffed so that IT could respond to public safety issues. Bill Oliver stated that IT department should be between 8-13 people.

10. OTHER MATTERS –

11. Public Hearing Reopened – Other Matters

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Santangelo moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Pessina moved the motion. Commissioner Kleckowski seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jody Krupa
Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON April 16, 2012